

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A component feeding apparatus for feeding electronic components to a pick-up position by intermittently forwarding a storage tape storing the electronic components therein by a forwarding pitch that is adjustable, comprising:

a sprocket supported rotatably around a rotation axis and intermittently forwarding the storage tape;

a forwarding gear supported rotatably around the rotation axis;

a forwarding lever supported rotatably; and

a first forwarding pawl and a second forwarding pawl which are attached to the forwarding lever,

wherein the first and second forwarding pawls are configured to engage with and drive the ~~forward~~ forwarding gear alternatively upon a rotational movement of the forwarding lever in a predetermined direction so that each of the rotational movements of the forwarding lever generates a rotation of the ~~forward~~ forwarding gear by a half tooth pitch of the forwarding gear.

2. (Currently Amended) The component feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotation of the ~~forward~~ forwarding gear by ~~[[a]]~~ the half tooth pitch corresponds to a forwarding pitch of the storage tape, and two rotations of the ~~forward~~ forwarding gear by ~~[[a]]~~ the half tooth pitch correspond to another forwarding pitch of the storage tape.

3. (Original) The component feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the forwarding lever is supported rotatably around the rotation axis.

4. (Currently Amended) A component feeding apparatus for feeding electronic components to a pick-up position by intermittently forwarding a storage tape storing the electronic components therein by a forwarding pitch that is adjustable, comprising:

a sprocket supported rotatably around a rotation axis and intermittently forwarding the storage tape;

a forwarding gear supported rotatably around the rotation axis;

a forwarding lever supported rotatably; and  
a plurality of forwarding pawls attached to the forwarding lever,  
wherein the forwarding pawls are configured to engage with and drive the ~~forward~~  
forwarding gear in turn upon a rotational movement of the forwarding lever in a predetermined  
direction so that each of the rotational movements of the forwarding lever generates a rotation of  
the ~~forward~~ forwarding gear by a pitch of a tooth of the forwarding gear divided by a total  
number of the forwarding pawls.

5. (Currently Amended) The component feeding apparatus of claim 4, wherein the  
rotation of the ~~forward~~ forwarding gear by said pitch of ~~[[a]]~~ the tooth divided by a total number  
of the forwarding pawls corresponds to a forwarding pitch of the adjustable ~~forward~~ forwarding  
pitches.

6. (Original) The component feeding apparatus of claim 4, wherein the forwarding lever  
is supported rotatably around the rotation axis.

7. (New) A component feeding apparatus for feeding electronic components to a pick-  
up position by intermittently forwarding a storage tape storing the electronic components therein  
by a forwarding pitch that is adjustable, comprising:

a sprocket configured to rotate around a center of an axis;  
a forwarding gear configured to rotate with the sprocket;  
a forwarding lever configured to make a rotational movement; and  
a plurality of forwarding pawls attached to the forwarding lever,  
wherein the forwarding pawls are configured to engage with and drive the forwarding  
gear in turn upon the rotational movement of the forwarding lever so that each of the rotational  
movements of the forwarding lever generates a rotation of the forward gear by a pitch of a tooth  
of the forwarding gear divided by a total number of the forwarding pawls.